



*United States Attorney
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**MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY CHARGES FORMER IONA COLLEGE
VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE WITH EMBEZZLEMENT OF OVER
\$1.2 MILLION**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and BRIAN HICKEY, the Special-Agent-in-Charge of the Northeast Region of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of the Inspector General, announced today the arrest of MARIE E. THORNTON, the former Vice President of Finance for Iona College, on charges of embezzling more than \$1.2 million from Iona College over the course of a ten-year time period. THORNTON surrendered this morning and was presented in Manhattan federal court today.

As alleged in the Information filed in Manhattan federal court:

From about 1999 to about May 2009, THORNTON caused more than \$1.2 million belonging to Iona College to be diverted to her personal use by, among other things, submitting false vendor invoices for reimbursement to Iona College and submitting credit card bills for personal expenses to be paid by Iona College.

Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative work of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Inspector General.

The case is being prosecuted by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorney CARRIE H. COHEN is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges in the Information are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.